

21 November 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone call from Mr. Robert E. Dunne, Assistant Counsel, Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee, concerning AID procurement of identification cards for use in Vietnam

1. Mr. Dunne called me at home on Saturday, 18 November, and advised that Mr. Ben Gilles, Director of Investigations, Armed Services Preparedness Subcommittee, has referred a problem to Senator John McClellan (D., Ark.), Permanent Investigations Subcommittee, relating to AID procurement of some six and one half million identification cards to be issued in Vietnam to assist in the control of Vietcong among the populace. Apparently strong emphasis was placed on the development of cards which could not be readily counterfeited. Procurement for AID is being handled by the Government Printing Office. Bids were requested and apparently an award has either been made or is about to be made by Moore Business Forms. A representative of the business firm that manufactures identification cards for CIA and other security agencies has raised a question that proper attention has not been given to the problem of insuring against alteration of the cards after issuance. In addition, it was noted that this firm was not invited to bid on the contract.

2. The purpose of Mr. Dunne's call was to advise that his staff would be meeting with the Chairman on Monday and in all probability would recommend that the Chairman request CIA to look at the cards that have been developed, from a technical point of view, particularly with regard to the question of field alteration.

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3. I thanked Mr. Dunne for his call and noted that this was not a service that the Agency was able to provide in the normal course of business. Mr. Dunne agreed but indicated that it was the staff's opinion, which he feels is shared by the Chairman, that in a matter of this importance the Agency would be the best qualified to advise the Chairman.

4. No further action is anticipated before Tuesday, 21 November, when Mr. Dunne may again call me.

[redacted]
Assistant Legislative Counsel

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